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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Mahesh Rajagopalan

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EXAMINER

ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/26/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@verizon.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/721,009	Applicant(s) RAJAGOPALAN ET AL.	
	Examiner THJUAN K. ADDY	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/20/2004; 02/08/2006; 06/13/2007; 10/23/2007;</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <u>01/16/2008.</u> | |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

1. Claims 61, 62, 63, and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.
2. Applicant's specification, (See pg. 50, paragraph [0122]), identifies the computer-readable media as "a carrier wave received from a network such as the Internet." When nonfunctional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, in a computer or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, it is not statutory since no requisite functionality is present to satisfy the practical application requirement. Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, stored in a computer-readable medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal does not make it statutory.
3. Furthermore, claims 61, 62, 63, and 66 recite "A computer-readable medium containing instructions...". Claims 61, 62, 63, and 66 should recite, for example, "A computer-readable medium **encoded with** instructions **capable of being executed by a computer...**".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chung et al. (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2002/0078153 A1).

5. In regards to claims 1, 30, 31, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 68, Chung discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user; contacting conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from the conference users; establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response; and establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration (See pg. 6-7, paragraph [0083] – [0084] and pg. 7, paragraph [0087]).

6. In regards to claims 2, 18, 32, and 48, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises: scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event (See pg. 5-

6, paragraph [0071] – [0072]).

7. In regards to claims 3, 19, 33, and 49, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application associated with the initiating user (See pg. 2, paragraph [0018]).

8. In regards to claims 4, 20, 34, and 50, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user (See pg. 2, paragraph [0018]).

9. In regards to claims 5, 21, 35, and 51, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and identifying conference users comprises: collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure based on the conference user identifiers (See pg. 1, paragraph [0011] and pg. 6, paragraph [0073]).

10. In regards to claims 6, 22, 36, and 52, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application and the second data structure comprises an address book listing at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information (See pg. 3, paragraph [0043]).

11. In regards to claims 7, 23, 37, and 53, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein contacting the conference users comprises: collecting contact information associated with the conference users; and establishing a communication

connection with the conference users using the contact information (See pg. 1, paragraph [0011]).

12. In regards to claims 8, 24, 38, and 54, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and establishing a communication connection comprises: dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users (See pg. 1, paragraph [0011]).

13. In regards to claims 9, 25, 39, and 55, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein contacting the conference users comprises: sending notifications of a computer-enhanced conference call request to the conference users (See pg. 6, paragraph [0083]).

14. In regards to claims 10 and 40, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein establishing a conference call comprises: connecting calls to devices of conference users based on responses to the notifications (See pg. 7, paragraph [0086]).

15. In regards to claims 11 and 41, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein connecting comprises: bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request so that the initiating user and the conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request may conduct a conference call; and providing the initiating user with notification of any conference user that declined the computer-enhanced conference call request (See pg. 7, paragraph [0085]).

16. In regards to claims 12, 26, 42, and 56, Chung discloses the method and

apparatus, comprising processing a conference user declining the computer-enhanced conference call request by at least one of: receiving a communication from a conference user to record a message for subsequent play back to the initiating user; receiving a communication declining the request without any further processing by a conference user; receiving a communication from a conference user to set an alternate contact telephone number; and receiving a communication from a conference user to set a period of time in which the conference user is to be contacted again (See pg. 6-7, paragraph [0084]).

17. In regards to claims 13 and 43, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users (See pg. 1, paragraph [0011] and pg. 7, paragraph [0086]).

18. In regards to claims 14, 27, 44, and 57, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, wherein establishing a collaboration comprises: determining whether conference users that accept the computer-enhanced conference call request are authorized to participate in the collaboration; and launching collaboration software corresponding to the initiating user and authorized (e.g., registered) conference users so that the initiating users and authorized conference users may participate in the collaboration (See pg. 6-7, paragraph [0084]).

19. In regards to claims 15, 28, 45, and 58, Chung discloses the method, wherein the sending comprises: retrieving data corresponding to the conference users; selecting devices associated with the conference users to receive the notification based on the retrieved data; and providing the notification to the selected devices for display on the

selected devices (See pg. 6-7, paragraph [0083] – [0084] and pg. 7, paragraph [0087]).

20. In regards to claims 16, 29, 46, and 59, Chung discloses the method and apparatus, comprising receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration (See pg. 1, paragraph [0011] and pg. 7, paragraph [0086]).

21. In regards to claims 17, 47, 62, 67, and 69, Chung discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user; contacting conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from the conference users; bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users (See pg. 1, paragraph [0011] and pg. 7, paragraph [0086]); and establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized (e.g., registered) to participate in the collaboration (See pg. 6-7, paragraph [0084]).

Conclusion

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

23. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

24. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thjuan K. Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

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